

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

JACADS Closure Planning

NOTICE OF PARTIAL APPROVAL OF PERMIT CHANGE

April 18, 2001

The U.S. EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) has allowed the Army to modify the hazardous wastes storage and treatment permit for the JACADS (Johnston Atoll Chemical Agency Disposal System) facility.

Permit Change

The EPA is giving the Army partial approval of the clean up and closure plan for the JACADS facility to let the Army treat by incineration waste that will be created from taking apart and cleaning up the JACADS facility. Other parts of this closure plan cannot be approved at this time as they are still being developed.

We believe that these permit changes will allow the Army to finish cleanup and closure of JACADS sooner and in a way that will still be safe for people, fish, birds and other wildlife that live on and around Johnston Atoll.

On July 26, 2000, the Army sent EPA a request to change the permit to update the JACADS Closure Plan. The plan included the dismantling, treatment, methods of clean up of the JACADS facility, and the HHERA (Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment) work plan. EPA is currently approving the treatment of closure waste only by incineration. Other treatment methods and the HHERA work plan are under development and not complete.



JACADS facility with incinerators inside

CONTACT:

Stacy Braye

PHONE: (415) 744-2056 or

TOLL FREE: (800) 231-3075

E-MAIL: braye.stacy@epa.gov

Moorish
Idol fish
living in the
Johnston Atoll
coral reef



Background

The Army operates the JACADS facility on Johnston Atoll, located 800 miles southwest of Hawaii. The JACADS facility was designed to take apart and burn military weapons containing chemical nerve agent and blister agent (known as mustard). The JACADS facility used incineration to destroy the chemical agents and weapons. Since 1990 the Army has destroyed all of the four million pounds of the chemical agent and chemical weapons originally stored on Johnston Island.

On November 29, 2000, the Army destroyed the last of the remaining chemical weapons stockpile on Johnston Atoll. The Army has already begun preliminary closure activities of the facility.

The Army sent EPA a request to modify the JACADS RCRA permit to allow the Army to clean up and close the JACADS facility. The Army announced this request in an July 19, 2000 public notice. On August 3, 2000, the Army held a public meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The modification request is only being partially approved to allow the Army to treat by incineration closure generated wastes. Other parts of the request are still being revised from its original form and will be based on further EPA review. The approved portion of the permit modification can be seen at our EPA office in San Francisco. EPA received written comments from the public during the comment period that ended October 27, 2000. This notification is being sent to all people on the JACADS mailing list as required by regulations (40 CFR 270.42(f)).

The approved permit modifications will go into effect in thirty days. In accordance with 40 CFR 124.19, appeals on this permit change must be filed by May 18, 2001 and should be addressed to:

Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Administrator
Environmental Appeals Board
401 M St. SW, Room 1145 (West Tower)
Washington DC 20460

The full Administrative Record about the JACADS, this permit and permit changes can be reviewed between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday at:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne Street (WST-4)
San Francisco, CA 94105
Contact: Vernon Christianson, (415) 744-2422
or e-mail at christianson.vern@epamail.epa.gov

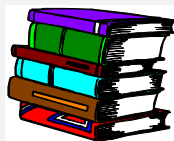
To get on EPA's JACADS mailing list to receive other information about JACADS and JACADS closure, please call Vicky Semones, EPA Office of Community Involvement, at (415) 744-2184 or toll-free at (800) 231-3075. To get on the Army's JACADS mailing list to receive additional information, please call Cathy Herlinger, Public Outreach and Information Office, at (410) 436-1479.

If you wish to receive this fact sheet in another language, you may call the Office of Community Involvement toll-free at (800) 231-3075.

For more detailed information about these changes
and to find out more about the JACADS can be found at:

U.S. EPA, Region IX
Pacific Islands Contact Office
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 5-152
Honolulu, HI 96850
Contact: Vicky Tshako
Phone: (808) 541-2710

Hamilton Library - Hawaiian Collection
University of Hawaii
2550 The Mall
Honolulu, HI 96822
Contact: Lynette Furuashi
Phone: (808) 956-8264



Kahului Library
90 School Street
Kahului (Maui), HI
Contact: Lani Scott
Phone: (808) 873-3097

U.S. Army - Bldg. 4517
Chemical Demilitarization and Remediation Activity
(Attn: SFAE-CD-ME)
Aerdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010
Contact: Stephen Parker
Phone: (410) 436-8760

Hilo Public Library
300 Waianuenue Avenue
Hilo, HI 96720
Contact: Wilma Matsumura
Phone (808) 933-4650

Lihue Public Library
4344 Hardy St.
Lihue (Kauai), HI
Contact: Margie Arakaki
Phone: (808) 241-3223